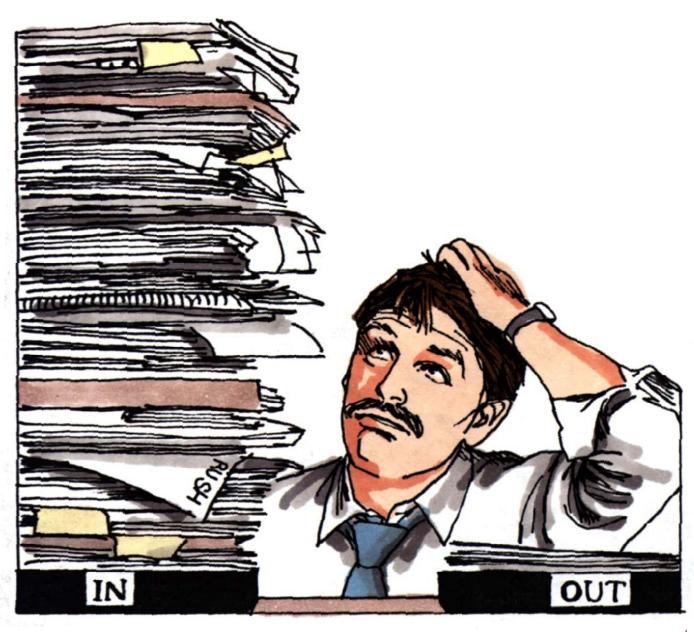
REGULATORY COMPLIANCE EDUCATION PROJECT

AGCOMPLYIT

USER'S MANUAL



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The user of this program agrees to hold Partners harmless from any adverse consequences arising from the use of this program.

CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Regulatory Compliance Education Project would like to publicly express our deep gratitude to the following very busy people who took a piece of their time to work with and review the beta copy of AgComplyIT. These folks also had the courage to tell us what we needed to hear rather than what we hoped to. They have made this a better tool for all of you.

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WHAT IS AGCOMPLYIT?

AgComplyIT is an ExcelTM-based tool that runs on your own personal computer. The Regulatory Compliance Education Project developed the tool to help you identify and plan your response to the federal and state regulations that affect your production operations. The tool uses your responses to a list of questions to sort out the most probable regulatory captures. Different answers to the same questions will bring different results.

When this project was conceived, we wanted to develop a tool that could simplify the chore of regulatory compliance by finding the trigger points for various regulations and putting them in one place.

Find lead agencies

Find trigger points

Put data in a single location

Develop format to plan compliance

What it covers and what it doesn't.

The tool looks at the trigger points in state and federal regulations dealing only with production agriculture. At this time, it doesn't cover local regulations like building codes and zoning nor does it cover value-added agriculture not directly dealing with production like agritourism or on-farm processing. Those interested in local regulations might try www.CalGold.ca.gov Go to www.CalGold.ca.gov

It has never been our intent to guarantee that using AgComplyIT will meet all regulatory requirements. We are attempting to simplify the process by supplying resources and contacts to let you develop your own compliance plans. One-size would never fit all and we would never try to suggest that it could. If you are concerned with your regulatory compliance, you may wish to contact an attorney specializing in this field.

SYSTEM AND PROGRAM COMPATIBILITY

AgComplyIT has been tested and runs on Windows 98, 2000, XP, XP Professional, and Macintosh OS 8.5 - 9.2.2 with ExcelTM 4.0, Excel 2001, and Excel 2003.

Fonts and Screen Resolution

Fonts used in the program are Times New Roman and Trebuchet MS. The Page Setup is set to .5-inch margins all around. The best screen resolution is 800x600 or better.

Acrobat Reader

You will need Acrobat Reader to use the PDF files either through the Action Plans or by browsing the Resource folder. You can download a free copy of Adobe Acrobat ReaderTM from http://www.adobe.com/.

GETTING STARTED

The tool runs on Microsoft ExcelTM. If you don't have ExcelTM, you will not be able to run the program.

Place the CD in your CD drive.

Windows users: drag the AgComplyIT folder to your C drive.

Mac users: Drag the AgComplyIT folder to your desktop.

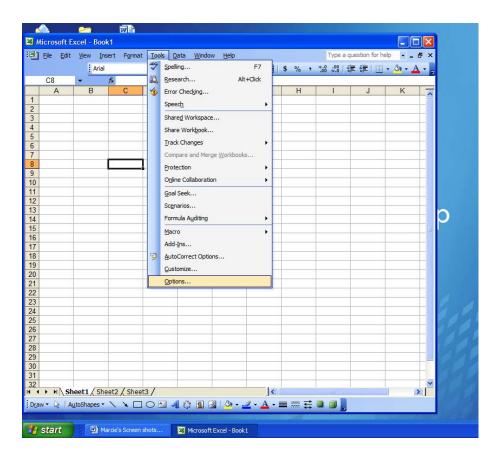
Open the AgComplyIT folder and click on the Read Me First file or read through this manual.

After using the Read Me First file, click on the AgComplyIT file to open it. Your computer should launch ExcelTM and open the file.

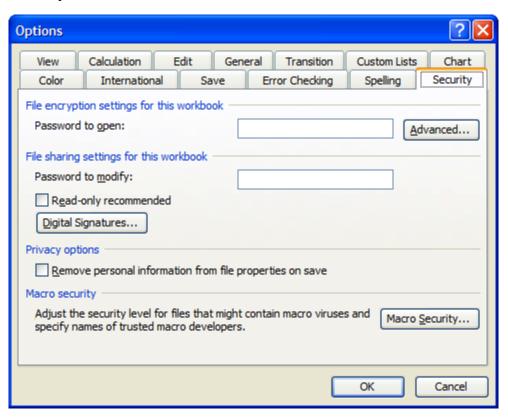
If you get the "Can't open file. Program that created it can't be found." message, try launching ExcelTM and opening AgComplyIT from the File menu.

Running Macros And Security Levels

If you have your ExcelTM security set to High, you will need to reset them to Medium in order to have the option to run Macros. To do this, launch ExcelTM. Left click the Tools menu and right click Options at the bottom of the menu.



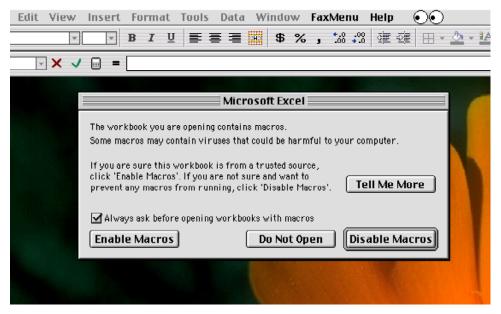
Under the Options dialog box, click the Security tab then click Macro Security.



The Security dialog box will enable you to change your security level to Medium which will allow you to enable the Macros that will run the AgComplyIT tool. You may wish to make a note to reset it after you finish working with AgComplyIT.



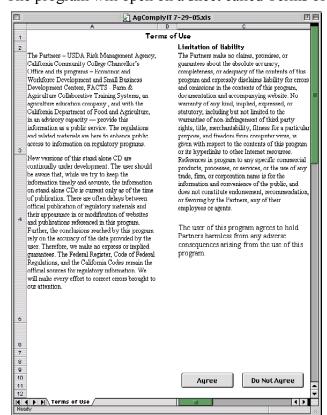
After you open AgComplyIT, a dialog box will appear asking you if you wish to enable macros.



You must enable macros for the program to run. Click "Enable Macros."

Terms of Use

The program will open on a sheet called Terms of Use.



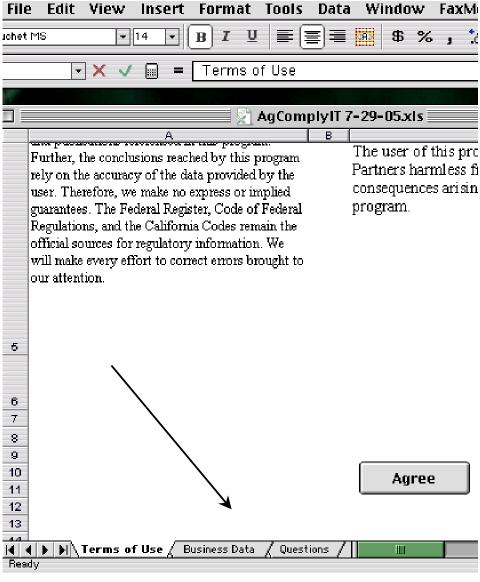
If you agree to the terms click "Agree".

If you do not agree, please remove the AgComplyIT files from your computer and return or destroy the CD.

WORKBOOKS AND WORKSHEETS

One of the reasons we chose ExcelTM was that it has a user-friendly way of organizing forms and data. The versions of ExcelTM that support this tool, organize *worksheets* within a *workbook*.

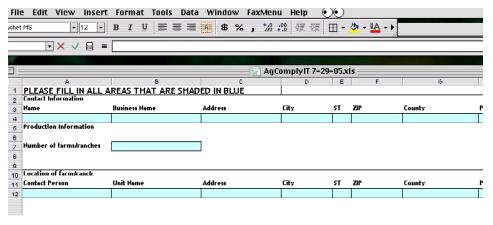
You will have two *workbooks* as you use this tool. The original workbook is named AgComplyIT. It is comprised of three public worksheets — Terms of Use, Business Data, and Questions. After you agree to the Terms of Use, the rest of the worksheets become available. Clicking on the tab opens that worksheet.



When you finish your questions and click "Complete", AgComplyIT will create another workbook with worksheets for your Regulatory Capture List and an Action Plan worksheet for each regulation on it.

Business Data Worksheet

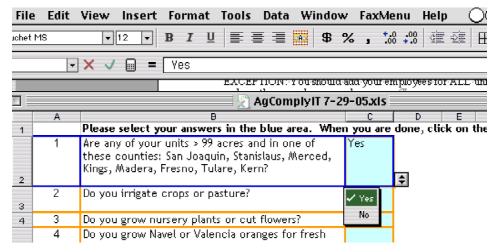
By completing this sheet, you will create personalized Action Plans. <u>It is not necessary for you to complete the Business Data worksheet for the program to run</u>, but will help you keep track of your plans. This is especially important if you have multiple production units.



Questions Worksheet

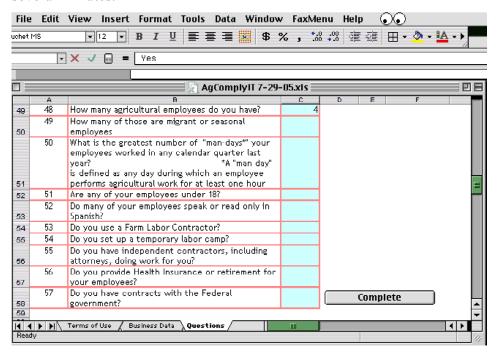
Click on the next worksheet tab labeled "Questions."

For each question there is a yes/no pull-down menu. Click on yes or no to answer the questions. If the drop down lists seem awkward to you, you may type yes or no in the questions calling for that choice.



If you do not raise animals you may click on the "No animals" button to go to your next applicable question. If you do raise animals, you should indicate the number of head of each.

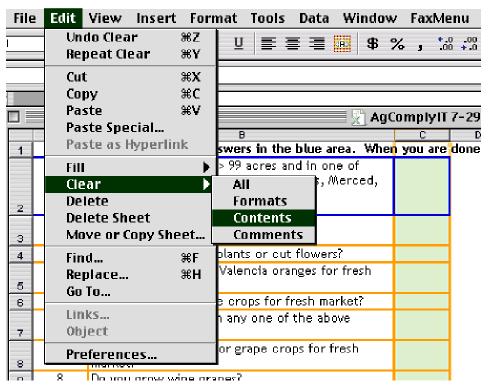
When you have finished answering all the questions, click the "Complete" button. The flashing you see is AgComplyIT testing your answers against the trigger points for each regulation. This will take several minutes.



AgComplyIT will put an ExcelTM file on your desktop (Mac) or C drive (Windows) called My Compliance Plan and open it for you.

NOTE: Producers with multiple production units should re-answer the questions and re-run AgComplyIT for each of your production units. EXCEPTION: You should add your employees for ALL units together and use those numbers on only one run. You may then skip the questions after Question 47 for subsequent runs.

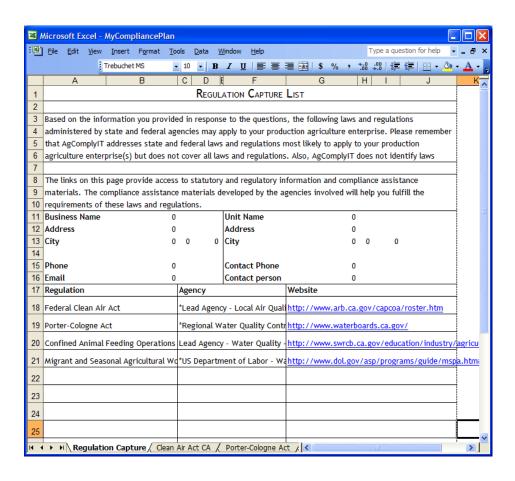
To clear your previous answers, you can simply re-choose or highlight and delete each individual answer. If you want to clear them all at once, you may highlight the answer column then find "Clear" under the Edit menu. Be sure you only clear the "Contents" so you don't harm the form.



MY COMPLIANCE PLAN WORKBOOK

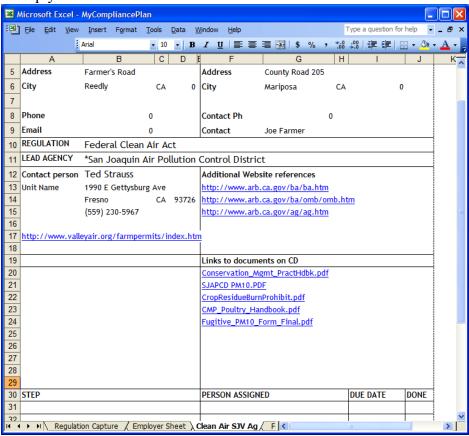
Regulation Capture List Worksheet

The first worksheet you will see is the Regulation Capture List. Based on your answers to the questions, these are the state and federal regulations most likely to apply to your operation.



For each of these regulations, AgComplyIT has generated an Action Plan Worksheet to help you develop a response plan.

Action Plans have the name of the lead agency, hopefully a live person to contact, Both websites and pdf files are there for you to learn more about the background of each regulation and find out how to comply with it. You can break your plan into steps and assign a timeline to your effort to comply.

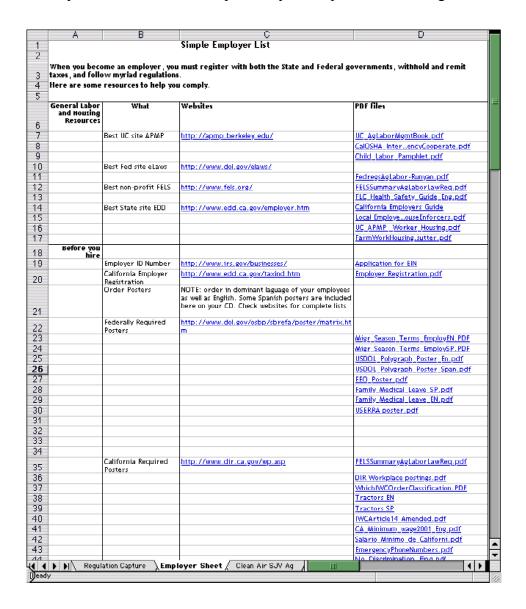


NOTE: IF you have multiple production units, you will want to rename the My Compliance Plan workbook to reflect the unit it supports BEFORE your run it for your next unit. If you don't AgComplyIT will want to override that file when it runs again.

Special Action Plan Worksheets

Employer List

When you hire an employee, you become responsible for following myriad regulations. Our Action Plan template couldn't hold all these resources so we devised a separate form. We give you general resources to learn about being an employer and specific resources for posters and forms you will need to make a plan for your response to these regulations.



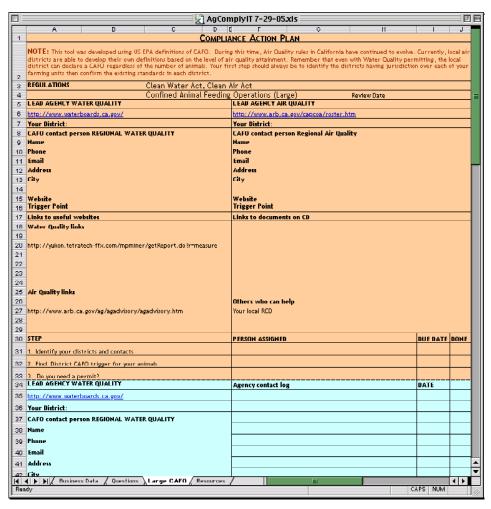
Large and Medium CAFO

We used the EPA definitions of AFOs and CAFOs because those definitions were firm and being used for the Air Quality Compliance Agreement. While this project was being developed, the California Air Resources Board was working on its own definitions as were several Regional Boards. While these definitions and the plans they support may have yet to be approved by the CalEPA, added to the State Plan and

approved by the US EPA, action rather than inaction is probably the more prudent course.

One of the limitations of using readily available software that could run on home computers is the lack of flexibility to tailor the resources directly to a Zip Code. As the boundaries of water and air districts don't necessarily track with county lines, zip codes would be the way to get you the exact resources to match your operation.

The first resources on the CAFO sheets are the websites and PDFs that will allow you to find the districts with jurisdiction over your individual operational units.



As you fill in the general information on the top of the form, the program will fill in that same information on the Water and Air Action plans in the colred pages below.

Review Your Plans

Regulations change with time. You should also set a date to review you compliance plans the same way you would review business or marketing plans or your insurance coverage.

The tool automatically sets a review date to the year after the program is run, you may set your own by simply typing over the calculated date.

Keep Your Copies of Your Sources

Just like having good source documents for your accountant, you should keep printed copies of the public resources you use in your compliance planning.

Print web pages you rely on the day you find them, they will change over time and your plan may need to change too, but you will have a record of why you did what you did.

Keep copies of correspondence both electronic and postal with the Action Plan to which they apply.

TROUBLESHOOTING FAQS

- 1. My computer tells me my security settings need to be changed to run AgComplyIT IT. Why?
- A. Macros are one way viruses and Trojan Horses can get into computers and cause problems, it's a good idea to not let them run if you don't know the source of the program. High security stops programs from running without asking you. If you have your ExcelTM security set to High, you will need to reset them to Medium in order to have the option to run Macros. Excel will ask you if you want to enable macros anytime a program has them. If this concerns you, write yourself a note to reset your security after you use AgComplyIT.
- 2 My computer gives me a message that it can't open AgComplyIT because it can't find the program that created it.
- A. Some computers won't open a file when you double click on it unless the program that runs has found it first. Launch Excel, and then open AgComplyIT from the File menu.
- 3. I tried to run AgComplyIT after I erased my first set of answers but got an error message. What did I do wrong?
- A. Probably nothing. Sometimes there is just too much data in a cache file. Try quitting Excel, re-lauching it, and reopening AgComplyIT.
- 4. I have Microsoft Works. Can I use that to run AgComplyIT?
- A. Unfortunately, AgComplyIT only runs on Microsoft Excel.

PARTNERS AND LIMITS OF LIABILITIES

This program is brought to you through the generous support of a Partnership Grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, Risk Management Agency with the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges Economic and Workforce Development Program (EWDP) through the Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) program and FACTS, an agriculture education company. The RMA owns the copyright to these materials.

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